



High-Profile Information Technology Project Status Report

Department: Natural Resources	
Project Name: WI Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) Private Lands Management (Release 3)	
Business Sponsor: Wendy McCown	
Date of Report: 06/30/2016	Reporting for Quarter: FY16 Q4
Project Start Date: 5/1/2010	Planned Implementation Date: June 30, 2016
Estimated Project Cost: 5,000,000	Amount Provided Through Master Lease: \$0

Project Description – Enter a brief description of the project, including the business case for it and its major deliverables.

WisFIRS (Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System) is a system that will enable foresters to store data collected in the field, plan for and track completed practices (e.g. timber sales), report accomplishments, and track Managed Forest Law (MFL) lands open to hunting and recreation to name a few. This application manages core business functions for public and private forest management in Wisconsin, serving hundreds of DNR staff as well as our partners.

This dashboard report splits out the WisFIRS Private Lands Management release, which is the initial release of the Division of Forestry's private lands forest management application, also referred to as Release 3. It is used to enter, review, approve, and maintain data about privately-owned lands enrolled in a forest tax law program (either the current Managed Forest Law System (MFL) or the previous Forest Crop Law (FCL)).

Forest tax law programs offer private landowners incentives in the form of property tax reductions if they agree to sustainably manage their forest land and allow some public access to their land. A percentage of timber harvest profits on those lands are returned to the local municipalities to help offset the property tax reductions. The property tax reduction aspect means that the data within the system is also used by local municipalities and the Department of Revenue.

Historically this information was managed by a PowerBuilder application (called "Managed Forest Law" system or "MFL") and an MS-Access application (Plantrac). MFL is used to manage the legal aspects of the plans, e.g., exactly which land is enrolled, who the owners are, etc. MFL is also used to manage the financial portion of the tax law programs. Plantrac is used to manage the forestry aspects of the plan: stands, practices, and compliance.

WisFIRS Private Lands Release or R3 replaces all components of the existing Plantrac application and many of the components of the MFL PowerBuilder application including but not limited to Plan Writing, Plan Maintenance, and Maintenance of Legal Data.

Project Funding – Please describe all sources of funding for the project, which should add up to the estimated project cost cited above.

SEG: \$3,400,000 FED: \$890,000 TOTAL: \$ 4,290,000 Incl. travel, contractors, HW/SW, staff time w/ fringe.

Project Status – Determine the status for the Schedule and Budget categories below based on the guidelines on the right and described in more detail on page 2 of this document.

Insert an X in the column that best describes the status of the category. Add comments for that category as needed.

Additional comments are not required if the status is Green, but if a category has a status of Yellow or Red, describe the issues or problems and what actions the agency is taking to address them.

STATUS COLOR INDICATORS	
Green	On target as planned
Yellow	Encountering issues (e.g., Schedule or Budget over by 10% to 25%)
Red	Encountering problems (e.g., Schedule or Budget over by 25% or more)

Project Status Categories	Green	Yellow	Red
<p>Schedule Status</p> <p>Two of the three major components of WisFIRS Private Lands Management Release 3 are complete (R3A - Plan Writing and R3B - Plantrac Replacement). Some work still remains on the components associated with the maintenance of legal data from the Managed Forest Law program (R3C - Tax Law Administration). This work is ongoing and significant progress has been made, however, impacts to WisFIRS Private Lands from implementation of the STAR project, DNR Alignment and recent legislative changes related to the Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL) programs (Act 358) have required WisFIRS development resources to be redirected to address those impacts, some of which impact the remaining work. As a result, we will be closing out the remaining “R3” project this quarter and will create a new project to address the changes that are impacting the various remaining Tax Law Administration components.</p> <p>Cause:</p> <p>Act 358, signed by the Governor in April 2016, changed many aspects of the statute that defines the Managed Forest Law program, resulting in a need to change data collected, change/add processes, and change workflows impacting tax law plan writing and administrative processes (e.g. transfers, withdrawals, corrections). All of these are related components of the current project impacting Tax Law Administration (R3C). In addition, the DNR alignment effort and conversion to PeopleSoft financial system have significant impacts on the administrative activities in the current project. Given the breadth of these influences, we feel it is best to close out Release 3 as currently written and create new projects detailing the changes that are needed to comply with Act 358, the DNR realignment effort and STAR implementation.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p>Close out the current R3 project and initialize a new project to identify the work needed to address Act 358 requirements, STAR implementation and the impacts of the DNR realignment project.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Budget Status</p> <p>A revised, estimated budget status will be provided in the next report based on the new project that will include an updated scope of work for new development and re-writing of the application that will be required to accommodate the recent changes.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This document can be made available in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities upon request.

Summarize Any Completed Major Tasks or Project Phases:

WisFIRS Private Lands Management Development

- See work in progress identified below.

Non- WisFIRS Private Lands Management Development (required work that impacted timeline)

- Act 358
 - Closed Acre limit change
 - New rules related for adding land to an MFL plan
 - Eligibility questions related to Act 358 changes
 - Renewal definition changes
 - Practices beyond plan expiration
 - New type of payment to distribute to municipalities
- Annual AID Payment processing
 - Add new payment distribution from 2015-17 budget
 - Add new payment distribution from Act 358
 - Re-write interface to send payments to PeopleSoft instead of WiSMART
- Cutting Notice Reports
- Defects and usability issues from WisFIRS Public Lands Management
- Defects and troubleshooting related to WisFIRS Public Lands GIS Management

Maintenance

- Data Requests / Open Records Requests
- Security architecture improvements
- Defects and usability issues requested by users

WORK IN PROGRESS:

WisFIRS Private Lands Management Development (required work that impacted timeline)

- Transfer screens to work w/Act 358 changes in WisFIRS
- Security Architecture improvements
- Security maintenance administration web application
- Order document scanning and archiving

Non WisFIRS Private Lands Management Development

- Add screen in WisFIRS to set up and run Annual AID Payment
- STAR/ PeopleSoft modifications
- Data Requests / Open Records Requests
- TFS best practices development/implementation
- Withdrawal changes
- WisFIRS Public GIS Troubleshooting
- Fire Reporting System rewrite

Summarize Any Significant Project Changes Affecting Schedule, Budget or Scope:

For each change, describe what the change involved, when it was approved, and the reasons behind the approved change.

Additional Comments or Issues (optional):

If you have any additional overall status comments about the project (e.g., project news, accomplishments, emerging challenges or risks that could affect the project), please provide them here.

As stated previously, new project information will be provided next quarter focusing on the most recent changes.

Project Status Category Guidelines

Schedule Status

Green – Indicates that the project or phase is on track for the targeted implementation date.

Yellow – Indicates that the project or phase may be falling behind and analysis needs to be done to determine if the project can recover and still achieve the targeted implementation date, or if adjustments must be made to that date.

Red – Indicates that the project or critical tasks have fallen behind schedule, and corrective action must be taken to still achieve the targeted implementation date or that date must be changed.

Budget Status

Green – Currently on target with project budget.

Yellow – Project is over budget by 10 to 25%.

Red – Project is over budget by 25% or more.